

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Ukrainian SSR)

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT The MVD in Odessa

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1. The primary purpose of the Odessa Naval MVD station was to control incoming and outgoing ships. An incoming ship was boarded by a detachment of one officer and four men, each of whom was usually armed with one submachine gun and one pistol. The officer and two of the men stayed aboard the ship while it was in the harbor. The remaining two men during that time were placed at the gangway on guard. Every 12 hours the detachment was relieved by another detachment. Sometimes the interval between the relief of the detachment was less than 12 hours. The members of the detachment wore the official MVD uniform, and came out of the port control building, which is located east of the Novy Mol. It is estimated that the number stationed in this building was approximately 60 men, often times as many as 30 of whom were officers.
2. The so-called harbor boat was in continual contact with the MVD installation and docked there daily. Actually there were two or three such boats. Two of them were permanently cruising inside the three-mile zone. The officers and men of these boats were rotated under MVD control.
3. The secondary purpose of the Odessa Naval MVD station was to issue daily orders to the German PW detachments and the Soviet detachments for their work in the harbor.
4. There was also some sort of organizational connection between the Naval MVD station and a military artillery unit where an anti-aircraft gun emplacement was located, which consisted of four-barrelled 3.7 cm guns. The signal point, where ships were navigated by flag signals, was located north to this gun emplacement. The detachment there also wore the official MVD uniform. The personnel working at the signal point were called harbor police, but they actually belonged to the MVD, as only members of the MVD were picked for jobs at the signal point.
5. The Port Administration, which is located at the entrance of the harbor, southwest of the Novy Mol, works in conjunction with the MVD port control. In the Soviet Union no individual organization wishes to be held responsible for port control, therefore both installations work together. The harbor administration is charged with various administrative functions, such as

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loading and unloading of ships. Another section of either the harbor administration or of the port control, which is also located in the port control building, has something to say, too, on control matters, as this latter office is controlled by the MVD. It is not known which one of these three sections makes the final decisions. It is certain that the primary purpose of the port control is to guard the harbor and check into all harbor affairs, as a police force.

6. It is not known how much office space was taken up by these three organizations, inasmuch as all were more or less MVD units. The installation as such, was probably only temporary as to its location, until further office space was provided, or the buildings at the harbor which were damaged by bombs were rebuilt.
7. A central office of the MVD was located approximately two kilometers southwest of the harbor gate. This five- or six-story structure covered an area of approximately 100 meters by 40 meters. This building was of the so called "Odessa stone" construction, and was a grey to ochre color. The "Odessa stone" is an artificial stone of pressed shell and lime. The size of these stones is 25 x 30 x 50 cm. This structure was in good condition and had deep cellars. This office had a connection of some sort with the MVD detachment which was billeted in the Party House located at the southern end of the Boulevard.
8. The leaders, politically speaking, are in the Odessa Communist Party House. Problems of organization, however, are decided by the Central MVD Office. The harbor police and the port control are under the control either of both the Central MVD Office and the Party House or of one of the two.
9. Generally speaking, all MVD authorities are cooperating with each other in order not to have to make decisions alone, and not to be held responsible alone. The port control is the executive arm of the MVD in problems concerning the harbor. The various lines of interconnection between the port control and the city MVD are unknown.
10. A certain Rosenberg (fmu) was in charge of the reconstruction of harbor installations, the Marti shipyard, as well as the Nikolayev shipyard, which is located at the estuary of the Bug River. Rosenberg was a civilian, and his office was located in the vicinity of the opera house. He was in direct contact with Moscow, and went there for orders.
11. Five or six pictures besides those of Stalin and Lenin were in the office in which source was employed. This office was in charge of reconstruction and was called "Krivuna 6" (sic). The above-mentioned pictures represented MVD people from the Ukraine. The size was 60 x 40 cm. Source remembers the name Kachovick was mentioned in connection with the photographs. Kachovick wore a civilian suit, white shirt, and dark necktie.*

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* [redacted] Comment: Kachovick may be a garbled version of Kovalchuk. MGB Lt. Gen. Mykola Kuzmich Kovalchuk is Minister of State Security of the Ukrainian SSR.

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